



On February 1, 2023, following an initial pretrial conference, a Pretrial Order and Case Management Plan (Doc. 20) was entered. The Pretrial Order directs the parties to engage in a mediated settlement conference by September 26, 2023. The parties are free to engage in settlement discussions and to conduct mediation at any time, provided that a mediated settlement conference is completed by the deadline set by the Pretrial Order.

Counsel's duty to convey settlement demands or offers is governed by the Rules of Professional Conduct. However, the Court takes no position as to whether the parties should resolve this litigation between themselves and, if so, on what terms; those decisions are left to the parties' discretion (provided again that they engage in mediation at least one time prior to the deadline set by the Pretrial Order).

Accordingly, Plaintiff's Motion for Judicial Settlement Conference (Doc. 22) is **DENIED**.

It is so ordered.

Signed: February 7, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Carleton Metcalf", written over a horizontal line.

W. Carleton Metcalf  
United States Magistrate Judge

